

By: Shaheen

H.B. No. 738

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT
2 relating to certain information included with ballot propositions
3 for elections to authorize state and local general obligation
4 bonds.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

6 SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 274, Election Code, is
7 amended by adding Section 274.004 to read as follows:

8 Sec. 274.004. PROPOSITION STATEMENT REGARDING GENERAL
9 OBLIGATION BONDS OF THIS STATE. (a) In addition to any other
10 wording for a ballot proposition for a proposed constitutional
11 amendment to authorize the issuance of general obligation bonds of
12 this state, the secretary of state shall require that the
13 proposition, both on the ballot and in the proclamation ordering
14 the election at which the amendment will be submitted, be
15 accompanied by a statement that includes the following amounts,
16 with each stated as a total amount and as a per capita amount for the
17 then-current population of this state:

18 (1) the then-current general obligation debt of this
19 state;

20 (2) the maximum amount of additional general
21 obligation debt of this state that would be authorized by the
22 proposed amendment; and

23 (3) the maximum estimated cost to repay the general
24 obligation debt that would be authorized by the proposed amendment,

1 including principal and interest, at a stated likely interest rate.

2 (b) For the purposes of the information required by
3 Subsection (a), on the request of the secretary of state the Bond
4 Review Board shall:

5 (1) certify the then-current general obligation debt
6 of this state;

7 (2) determine a likely interest rate for the proposed
8 bonds; and

9 (3) compute the estimated maximum repayment cost in
10 accordance with the likely interest rate determined under
11 Subdivision (2).

12 (c) The ballot required by this section must be printed in
13 substantially the following format:

<u>DEBT ITEMS</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>PER CAPITA</u>
<u>CURRENT GENERAL</u> <u>OBLIGATION DEBT</u>	<u>\$ _____</u>	<u>\$ _____</u>
<u>PROPOSED NEW GENERAL</u> <u>OBLIGATION DEBT</u>	<u>\$ _____</u>	<u>\$ _____</u>
<u>COST TO REPAY</u> <u>ADDITIONAL GENERAL</u> <u>OBLIGATION DEBT</u> <u>AT ____% INTEREST</u> <u>OVER ____ YEARS</u>	<u>\$ _____</u>	<u>\$ _____</u>

28 (d) The statement required by this section must:

29 (1) be considered by the secretary of state before the
30 secretary certifies the proposed amendment under Section
31 274.003(a); and

32 (2) be appropriately translated as provided by Section
33 274.003(c) for other ballot language.

34 SECTION 2. Subtitle C, Title 9, Government Code, is amended

1 by adding Chapter 1253 to read as follows:

2 CHAPTER 1253. BALLOT INFORMATION FOR ELECTION TO AUTHORIZE LOCAL
3 GOVERNMENTAL GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS

4 Sec. 1253.001. DEFINITION. In this chapter, "local
5 government" means a political subdivision or special-purpose
6 district or authority of this state, including a county,
7 municipality, school district, junior college district, hospital
8 district, or conservation and reclamation district.

9 Sec. 1253.002. BALLOT INFORMATION FOR ELECTION REGARDING
10 GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS. (a) This section applies to a ballot
11 printed for an election to authorize a local government to issue
12 general obligation bonds.

13 (b) A ballot must include with the ballot proposition a
14 statement that includes the following amounts, with each stated as
15 a total amount and as a per capita amount for the then-current
16 population of the local government:

17 (1) the then-current general obligation debt of the
18 local government;

19 (2) the maximum amount of additional general
20 obligation debt of the local government that would be authorized if
21 the proposition is passed; and

22 (3) the maximum estimated cost to repay the general
23 obligation debt that would be authorized by the proposed amendment,
24 including principal and interest, at a stated likely interest rate.

25 (c) The ballot required by this section must be printed in
26 substantially the following format:

27 DEBT ITEMS TOTAL PER CAPITA
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<u>CURRENT GENERAL</u>		
<u>OBLIGATION DEBT</u>	\$ <u> </u>	\$ <u> </u>
<u>PROPOSED NEW GENERAL</u>		
<u>OBLIGATION DEBT</u>	\$ <u> </u>	\$ <u> </u>
<u>COST TO REPAY</u>		
<u>ADDITIONAL GENERAL</u>		
<u>OBLIGATION DEBT</u>		
<u>AT ___% INTEREST</u>		
<u>OVER ___ YEARS</u>	\$ <u> </u>	\$ <u> </u>

Sec. 1253.003. DETERMINATION OF BALLOT INFORMATION. For the purposes of the information required by Section 1253.002(b), the treasurer of the local government, or another person as determined by the governing body of the local government, shall:

- (1) certify the then-current general obligation debt of the local government;
- (2) determine a likely interest rate for the proposed bonds; and
- (3) compute the estimated maximum repayment cost in accordance with the likely interest rate determined under Subdivision (2).

SECTION 3. Section 274.004, Election Code, as added by this Act, and Chapter 1253, Government Code, as added by this Act, apply only to a ballot proposition for an election held on or after November 1, 2018.

SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2017.